

# Industrial levy to rear its head at special meeting

By **ROB KELLY**  
The Champion

A push by Milton treasurer Jim McQueen to have town council approve Milton's controversial new commercial-industrial building charges failed Monday night when the politicians demanded far more information.

Various factions involved in the fracas took centre stage. Property developers complained about unfair treatment. The Chamber of Commerce warned that Milton seems intent on erecting investment barriers. Politicians criticized municipal bureaucrats for churning out mounds of paperwork without tapping into any innovative solutions.

In the end the whole matter was deferred to a special council meeting on Wednesday, July 22, which will be solely dedicated to the topic.

At issue is a proposed \$1.26 per square foot levy on all new commercial-industrial buildings to pay for municipal services such as fire protection, roads, parks and sewers, as well as electrical power. Milton wants 63 cents a

square foot for its so-called development charge, and Milton Hydro wants an equal amount.

On top of that, Halton Region is currently levying \$1.10 per sq. ft. in development charges, and is slated to eventually raise that as high as \$2.81, at which point the Region expects to see MEETING on page 11

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